

SOCIOLOGY 4396
SOCIOLOGY OF RELIGION: "THE VATICAN"
SUMMER 2018

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OFFICE HOURS: W – 1:00 pm. to 2:30 p.m.

CLASS TIME AND LOCATION:

M T W R 2:30 to 5:05 p.m. Franklin University- Lugano, Switzerland

COURSE PRE-REQUISITES, CO-REQUISITES AND/OR OTHER RESTRICTIONS:

None

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Throughout history, and in every society in the world, people have practiced some form of religion. While some think of religion as highly personal, sociologists recognize that it is a social institution with an organized set of beliefs, norms and practices centered on basic social values and needs. We will begin the course by examining how Durkheim, Weber and Marx described the relationship between religion and society and the sacred and the profane. We will also explore the role religion plays in social control, cohesion and change. In the second half of the course, we will apply sociological concepts to the study of the Roman Catholic Church and the Vatican in particular. We will analyze gender roles, hierarchical control, and social stratification within the context of the church, and compare and contrast U.S. customs with those of other countries. The course will culminate with a trip to Rome and Vatican City.

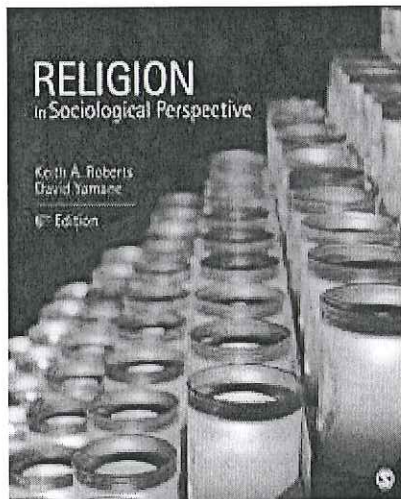
LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

- Identify essential theories, concepts, and research methods used in sociology of religion.
- Analyze how religion intersects with gender, race, ethnicity, social class, and sexual orientation.
- Discuss causes and consequences of sociologically relevant social problems that the Roman Catholic Church seeks to address both within the denomination itself and in the world at large.
- Understand the historical and cultural contexts that shape the Vatican and how they are socially constructed.
- Master new proficiencies and skills to navigate unfamiliar religious cultures and situations.

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

TEXTBOOK



Keith A. Robers and David Yamane, Religion in Sociological Perspective (6th Edition)
Sage, 2016
ISBN: 9781452275826

Also available as an eTextbook through VitalSource (previously CourseSmart).

Additional readings will be available on library reserve or eLearning.

CLASS FORMAT AND INSTRUCTOR'S EXPECTATIONS

This course will consist of lectures, quizzes, discussion, student presentations, and a variety of assignments to be completed both inside and outside of class. Completion of assigned readings is a key requirement of this course. It is important to read and become familiar with the material before coming to class so that we can discuss key ideas. Detailed instructions on the assignments will be provided in class and posted on eLearning. The quizzes consist of multiple choice, and/or short answer questions.

GRADING

Class Participation	10%
Quizzes	20%
Class Presentation	20%
Gender in Religion Paper	25%
Reflection Journal	<u>25%</u>
	100

Letter Grade Percentage Points

A+	97-100	B	84-86	C-	70-73	F	59 and below
A	94-96	B-	80-83	D+	67-69		
A-	90-93	C+	77-79	D	64-66		
B+	87-89	C	74-76	D-	60-63		

PRE-DEPARTURE READINGS AND MOVIE SCREENING

You will receive articles via email to read before arriving in Lugano. There will also be a movie screening of *The Francis Effect*, a documentary that takes an in-depth look at how the Catholic Church is changing under the leadership of Pope Francis. Attendance is optional.

CLASS QUIZZES

You will have a series of quizzes throughout the course that cover the assigned readings. There will be no makeups for quizzes but the lowest quiz grade will be dropped.

CLASS PRESENTATION

Each student will work with one classmate to present information on an assigned reading one time over the course of the four week-session. Topics will be assigned on the first day of class. Each student team can choose how to lead the class (in small groups, as one large group, with an exercise, etc.). The rest of the class will be responsible for informed and thoughtful participation. The student team will also develop a list of discussion questions (due on the "presentation" day) and an analysis/summary of the class presentation (due one week later). The summary should provide information about how the work was divided among team members, what was most effective in the presentation (which questions generated the most discussion, for example), and areas that needed improvement.

GENDER AND RELIGION PAPER

For this paper, you will be researching historical and contemporary gender patterns within the Roman Catholic Church. Use at least **five outside sources** (see details on the grading rubric) to describe the patterns of male and female participation in the Catholic Church. Look for evidence of patriarchy as well as more progressive views, and be sure to explore the leadership, language and imagery of the religion. Describe those patterns in the first half of your paper.

For the second half of your assignment, attend a service a Catholic mass in Lugano or elsewhere in your travels. Observe how the extent of male/female participation and leadership compares to the research that you did. Be sure to discuss clergy, prayer book, and rituals. Analyze the patterns you observe, using conceptual tools and ideas from the course (take the time to dig into, synthesize, criticize ideas). Illustrate with specific detail. Specifically tie your insights to course readings and lectures, and include at least five references to the textbook (using page numbers to identify those references.) Be sure to also describe how you gathered your information. Criteria for grading include: 1) Care and insight in gathering and presenting information; 2) Knowledgeable use of and reflection upon course ideas; 3) Coherence and clarity of the writing.

REFLECTION JOURNAL

During your time in Rome and Vatican City, you will write about your experiences in a Reflection Journal. Your reflections will outline the various ways in which your Study Abroad experience helps you better understand sociological issues related to religion and the Vatican in particular. More details will be provided in class.

INCOMPLETE GRADE POLICY

As per university policy, incomplete grades will be granted only for work unavoidably missed at the semester's end and only if 70% of the course work has been completed. An incomplete grade must be resolved within eight (8) weeks from the first day of the subsequent long semester. If the required work to complete the course and to remove the incomplete grade is not submitted by the specified deadline, the incomplete grade is changed automatically to a grade of **F**.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

The faculty expects a high level of responsibility and academic honesty from students. Because the value of an academic degree depends upon the absolute integrity of the work done by the student for that degree, it is imperative that a student demonstrate a high standard of individual honor in his or her scholastic work.

SCHOLASTIC DISHONESTY

Any student who commits an act of scholastic dishonesty is subject to discipline. Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts. Plagiarism, especially from the web, from portions of papers for other classes, and from any other source is unacceptable and will be dealt with under the university's policy on plagiarism. Your research papers will be checked on **TURN IT IN**.

EMAIL ACCOUNT

Please be sure that you know how to access your UTD email account and can check it regularly.

The university provides students with free email accounts in order to maintain a high degree of confidence in the identity of individuals corresponding and the security of the transmitted information. Therefore, the university encourages all official student email correspondence be sent only to a student's UT Dallas email address and that faculty and staff consider email from students official only if it originates from a UTD student account. For help with your UTD email account, call 972-883-2911 or go to <http://www.utdallas.edu/ir/helpdesk/>

GENERAL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

The University of Texas at Dallas has developed a number of policies and procedures designed to provide students with a safe and supportive learning environment. For UT Dallas policy related to the following go to: <http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies>

Field Trip Policies

Student Conduct & Discipline

Email Use

Withdrawal from Class

Student Grievance Procedures

Disability Services

Religious

CLASS SCHEDULE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

Reading assignments listed below are from the textbook or posted on eLearning or library reserve. Please note that not all reading assignments are posted in this syllabus. Articles on current news events that relate to our topics will be posted on eLearning to supplement the list below. Also *(R) indicates readings that are on library reserve. **NOTE: This schedule is tentative and may be subject to change.**

Week 1 **7/2 – 7/5**

INTRODUCTION TO THE SOCIOLOGY OF RELIGION

What Do We Mean by the Term *Religion*?
A Social Scientific Approach to Studying Religion
Religion in the Larger Society: Macro Perspective
The Cultural Construction of Religion
Roberts and Yamane, Chapters 1, 2, 3 and 4

Week 2 **7/9 – 7/12**

ORGANIZED RELIGION

Churches, Sects, Denominations and “Cults”
Religion, Inequality and Social Activism
Religion and Globalization
Roberts and Yamane, Chapters 7, 12 and 15
Wilde: Vatican II: A Sociological Analysis of Religious Change

Week 3 **7/16 – 7/19**

RELIGION AND SOCIAL INEQUALITY

Religion, Gender and Sexuality
Religion, Economics and Social Class
Religion and Race
Roberts and Yamane, Chapters 9, 10, and 11
Ivereigh: Francis and the Making of a Radical Pope

Week 4 **7/23 – 7/26**

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH AND THE VATICAN EXCURSION TO ROME AND VATICAN CITY

Gender and Sexuality and the Church – Priesthood, Sexual Abuse
Family and the Church – Birth Control, Gay Marriage, Divorce
Social Inequality and the Church – The Pope Francis Era
Supplementary Readings:
Gibson: The Rule of Benedict
Allen: All the Pope’s Men